



# Downtown Austin

Recommendations to  
Improve City Services  
March 1, 2007



# Presentation Overview

- Background
- Current City Services
- Recommendations to Improve City Services
- Issues for the Downtown Master Plan
- Future Policy Decisions



# Background

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- Objective
  - Gather information for the City Manager regarding current City services within Downtown Austin in order to develop recommendations for improvement
- Information Gathered
  - Tasks performed
  - Responsible Unit
  - Frequency
  - Costs



# Background

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- Recommendations Grouped in the Following Categories:
  - Cleanliness
  - Pedestrian safety
  - Attractiveness
  - Code enforcement
  - Public Safety



# Current City Services

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- Table 2 Overview (Pages 8 - 9)
  - Entity/ department
  - Frequency
  - Annual cost



# Current City Services

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- Litter removal
- Litter can emptying
- Sidewalk repair
- Alley cleaning and reconstruction
- Graffiti removal and abatement
- Graffiti investigation
- Tree grate maintenance
- Tree trimming
- Bike rack replacement
- Planter ball maintenance
- Street and alley lighting
- Street striping and marking
- Street banner installation and removal
- Manhole cover replacement
- Street sign maintenance
- Restaurant inspection
- Grease barrel inspection
- Event barricade enforcement
- Street vendor permitting
- Delivery time zone and parking enforcement
- City code enforcement
- Downtown area command
- Downtown rangers
- Downtown parks patrol



# Recommendations

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- Table 1 Overview (Pages 6 - 7)
  - Lead department
  - Funding source
  - Time to completion
  - Estimated cost
  - Funded and unfunded



# Recommendations

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## City Staff Task Force

- Create a City staff task force to implement these recommendations and research further enhancements
- Monitor 311 calls within the Downtown PID

## Litter Abatement

- Install “Scoop the Poop” boxes
- Consider purchasing and installing ashtrays within the Downtown PID

## Sidewalk Washing

- Provide a fact sheet to businesses for proper sidewalk washing
- Allow businesses the ability to use a water hose to wash sidewalks and alcoves
- Reconfigure East 6<sup>th</sup> Street irrigation system to provide water access to DAA
- Work with DAA to explore bird repellent solutions



# Recommendations

## Sidewalk Repair

- Repair sidewalks with DAA assistance for prioritizing
- Initiate an inventory of specialty sidewalk pavers that are maintained by the City
- Purchase the specialty pavers based on anticipated replacement need
- Develop a plan to replace the damaged specialty pavers

## Alley Reconstruction

- Reconstruct five (5) Downtown alleys in 2007
- Plan to reconstruct two (2) Downtown alleys in 2008
- Plan to reconstruct two (2) Downtown alleys in 2007

## Alley Cleanliness

- Investigate the feasibility of requiring businesses to label their grease traps barrels
- Explore implementing a City contract for a single-service provider for grease collection
- Ensure that Waste Management replaces odorous and dirty dumpsters
- Finish implementing 2006 Sixth Street stakeholder meeting recommendations



# Recommendations

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## Tree Grates

- Test a filter material placed underneath tree grates
- Install the filter material if successfully tested
- Install replacement tree grates

## Bike Racks

- Implement an annual replacement program

## Traffic Signal Cabinets

- Work with DAA to research using cabinets as an artist canvas

## News Racks

- Have an initial meeting with periodical representatives to explain the goal for the pilot project and discuss options for program administration and invite comments
- Subject to the results of the initial meeting, proceed to implement a pilot program

## Monuments and Works of Art

- Propose a plan and operating budget for the Great Streets streetscape maintenance that incorporates maintain monuments and works of art



# Recommendations

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## Code Enforcement

- Provide two (2) additional inspectors within the Right-of-Way Management Division
- Provide one (1) additional sanitarian dedicated to Downtown restaurant inspections

## Awnings

- Conduct a study for other enforcement means for having owners replace damaged awnings

## ATMs

- Research whether the City can regulate ATMs



# Recommendations

## Completed Since October 2006

- Sidewalk Cleaning
  - Purchase a pressure washing machine with water recapture feature
- Litter Abatement
  - Purchase 12 ashtrays to be installed on East 6<sup>th</sup> Street
- Graffiti Removal
  - Assigned a full-time detective to work specifically on graffiti crimes
- Street Signs
  - Completely resigned Downtown area
- Littlefield Clock
  - Contacted owner to request repair and maintenance



# Recommendations

## Downtown Master Plan Consideration

- Sixth Street Urban Entertainment District Task Force
- ATM Regulation
- Storefront and Signage Design Guidelines
- Widening Sidewalks



# Recommendations

## Future Policy Decisions

- Installing Parking Meters on East 6<sup>th</sup> Street
- Barricade Installation and Removal Policy
- Street Vendor Fees
- Delivery Zones



# Summary

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- City Staff Task Force to Meet Regularly
  - Implement recommendations
  - Continuous review of operations issues
  - Research further enhancements to services
  - Progress reports provided to City Manager
- Refer Certain Items to the Downtown Master Plan
- Present Information for Certain Items for Future Policy Discussion